

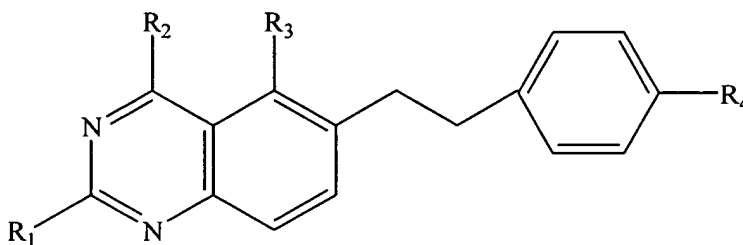
**Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1 and 2, without prejudice, and insert the following new claims 3-8, as set forth in the following listing of claims:

1. and 2. (Canceled)

3. (New) In a process for synthesizing a compound of formula Ib:

(Ib)



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are each individually amino or N-alkyl substituted amino; hydroxy; alkoxy; keto; lower alkyl; or a nitrogen or oxygen protecting group;

R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen; hydroxy; alkoxy; trifluoromethyl alkoxy; halo; sulfhydryl or alkylthio;

R<sub>4</sub> is -C(O)-X;

X is hydroxy; alkoxy; or an amino acid residue;

in which process a 2-amino-5-nitro-benzonitrile starting reagent is cyclized to form 2,4-diamino-6-nitro-quinazoline, which is converted to 2,4,6-triamino-quinazoline, which is converted to 2,4-diamino-6-cyano-quinazoline, which is converted to 2,4-diamino-6-formyl-quinazoline;

the improvement comprising:

reacting an R<sub>4</sub>-*p*-benzoic acid alkylene moiety with triethyl phosphite to form a 4-R<sub>4</sub>-carbonyloxyalkyl-phenyl-alkyldiethylphosphite; and

reacting the 2,4-diamino-6-formyl-quinazoline with the 4-R<sub>4</sub>-carbonyloxyalkyl-phenyl-alkyldiethylphosphite to form the compound of formula Ib.

4. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the R<sub>4</sub>-*p*-benzoic acid alkylene moiety is a methylene moiety.

5. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein the  $R_4$ -*p*-benzoic acid methylene moiety is 4-(bromomethyl)benzoate.

6. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein X is hydroxy.

7. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein X is an amino acid residue of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of  $\gamma$ -methylene glutamic acid, glutamic acid and aspartic acid, or  $\gamma$ -methylene glutamate.

8. (New) The process of claim 3, wherein the 4- $R_4$ -carbonyloxyalkyl-phenyl-alkyldiethylphosphite is 4-carboxymethyl-phenyl-methyldiethylphosphite.

9. (New) The process of claim 3, further comprising hydrogenating the compound of formula Ib to form 6-(4- $R_4$ -carbonyloxyalkylphenyl)ethanyl-2,5-diamino quinazoline, which is hydrolyzed to form 6-(4- $R_4$ -carbonyloxyphenyl)ethanyl-2,5-diamino quinazoline,

the improvement further comprising:

reacting 6-(4- $R_4$ -carbonyloxyphenyl)ethanyl-2,5-diamino quinazoline with diethyl  $\gamma$ -methylene-L-glutamate to form  $\gamma$ -methylene glutamate 5,8,10-trideaza aminopterin diethyl ester.

10. (New) The process of claim 9, wherein the improvement further comprises reacting the 6-(4- $R_4$ -carbonyloxyphenyl)ethanyl-2,5-diamino quinazoline with the diethyl  $\gamma$ -methylene-L-glutamate in the presence of 1-hydroxy benzotriazole and 1-[3-dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethyl carbodiimide hydrochloride.

11. (New) The process of claim 9, wherein the improvement further comprises reacting the 6-(4- $R_4$ -carbonyloxyphenyl)ethanyl-2,5-diamino quinazoline with the diethyl  $\gamma$ -methylene-L-glutamate in the presence of 1-hydroxy benzotriazole, 1-[3-dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethyl carbodiimide hydrochloride and triethylamine.